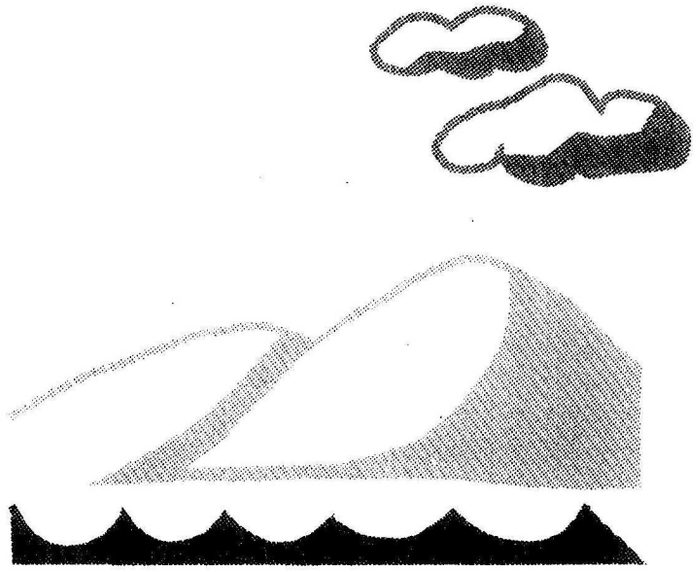
Public Participation Plan

Santa Susana Field Laboratory



Rockwell International
Rocketdyne Division

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Public Participation Plan

Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Submitted to:

Public Participation Specialist
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
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June 1992

Rockwell International
Rocketdyne Division

Printed on recycled paper

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The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is committed by policy and obligated by law to ensure that a program of community involvement be developed to inform the public about hazardous waste sites and facilitate public participation in the decision making process. DTSC is overseeing various ground water investigations and remedial actions to clean up former waste management systems at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). Rockwell International Corporation/Rocketdyne Division (Rocketdyne), the Department of Energy and NASA, as the Responsible Parties (RPs), have agreed to carry out necessary studies and remedial actions at the site. Rocketdyne is required by DTSC to design and implement a public participation program subject to DTSC approval. The Public Participation Plan (the Plan) describes that program. It has been prepared by Rocketdyne under DTSC oversight.

The purpose of the public participation program is to involve the community and other interested persons in the state clean up process by: (1) establishing procedures for the accurate and timely release of information about this site to interested citizens and public officials, and (2) encouraging two-way communication between the community and DTSC about the clean up process. The Plan describes community concerns and interests related to the site, as they are presently understood by DTSC. In addition, the Plan presents methods by which DTSC will inform the potentially affected community and concerned public about studies and findings at the site, while encouraging community involvement in and throughout the clean up process. Included are legally required public meetings and periods during which DTSC must accept and consider public comments on proposed remedial actions, supplemented by many additional measures to ensure that DTSC's commitment to public participation in its actions is met.

Information sources for the Plan include reports of previous technical investigations at the site. Information also came from discussions with staff at DTSC, Rocketdyne, and from telephone contacts and face-to-face interviews with individuals representing local residents and businesses; city and county agency staff; elected officials in city, county and state offices; and environmental interest groups. Elected officials and agency staff interviewed during the Plan preparation are identified in Appendix B.

A fact sheet was distributed in February 1992, announcing the start of investigations. The fact sheet was mailed to contiguous property owners and others on an initial mailing list of approximately 3,000 people, many of whom are on Rocketdyne's normal community notification list. Community interviews were conducted in March 1992.

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The Public Participation Plan is structured as follows: Section 2.0 provides background information about the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Section 3.0 presents a discussion of community concerns based on community interviews and Section 4.0 outlines objectives of the public participation program for the site and sets forth specific techniques for carrying out the program. A schedule for program activities is included. Appendix A provides DTSC contacts, locations of information repositories and suggested places for public meetings. Appendix B presents a mailing list of persons who were interviewed in order to better gauge the concerns of the community. In copies of this Plan produced for public circulation, an abbreviated mailing list is provided which is limited to elected officials, agency staff and public interest groups. Appendix C present the officials to be contacted for briefings.

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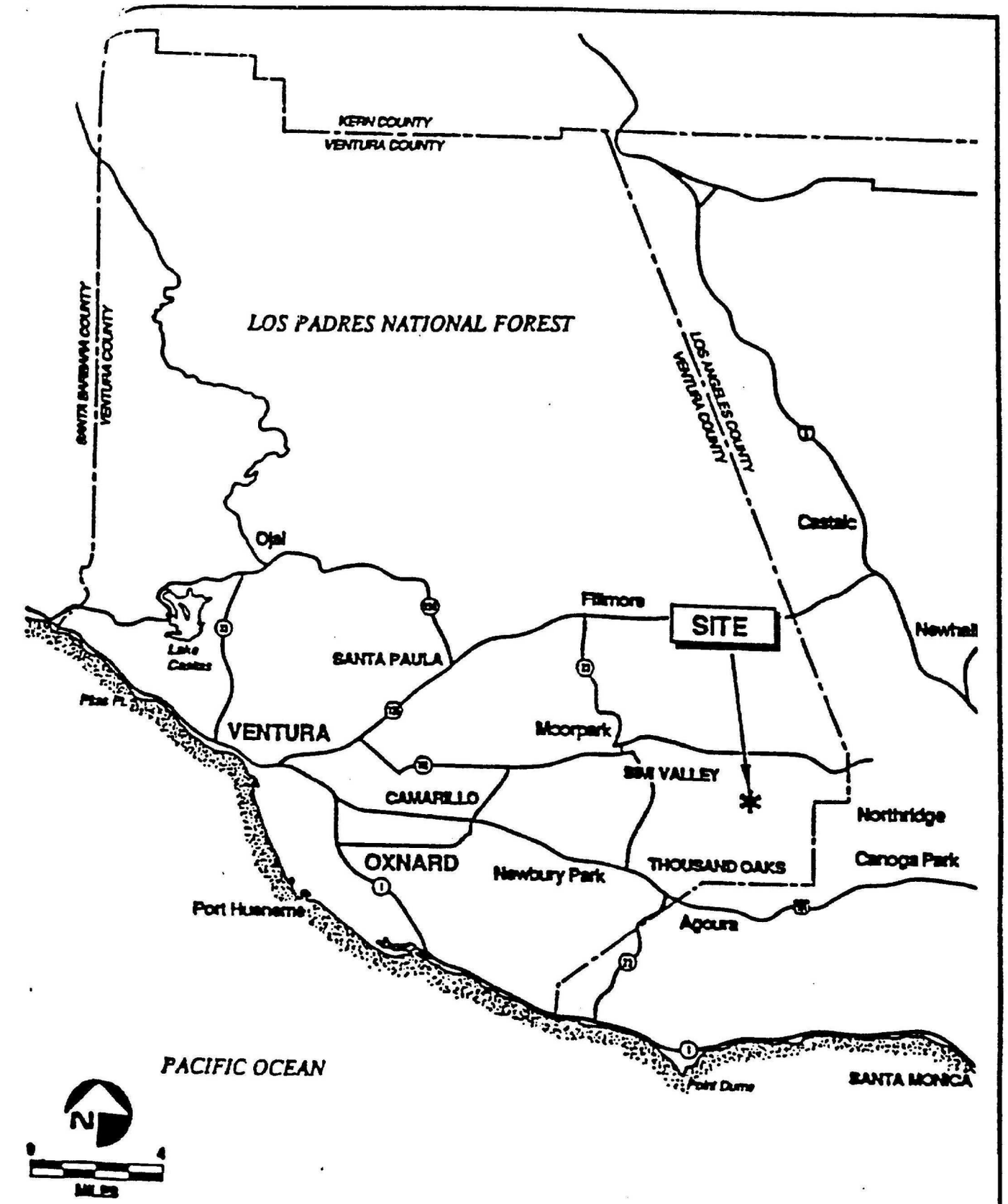

Figure I

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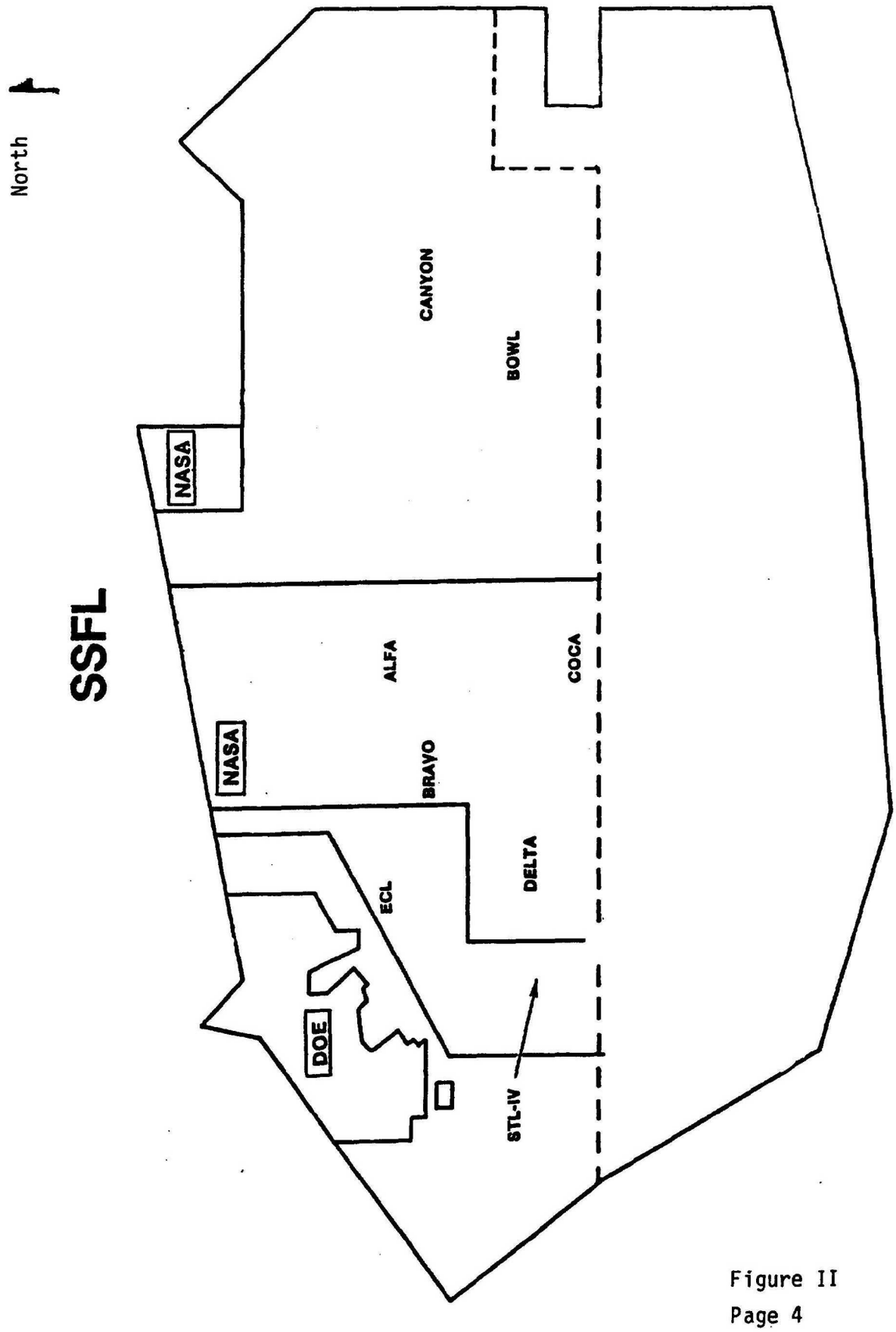

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2.1 LOCATION

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is located in southeastern Ventura County, near the crest of the Simi Hills at the western border of the San Fernando Valley in California. The field lab consists of 2,668 acres and is subdivided into four administrative areas and a buffer zone. Areas I, III and IV are owned by Rockwell. However, a portion of Area IV has been lease-optioned to the Department of Energy (DOE). Area II is owned by NASA.

2.1.1 NEIGHBORS AND NEARBY LANDMARKS

The SSFL is approximately 1,800 to 2,000 feet above sea level and 1,000 feet above the floor of the San Fernando Valley. The SSFL is bordered on the south by a semi-rural equestrian residential area known as Bell Canyon. The northern perimeter of the field laboratory is shared by a public recreational park area owned by the Santa Monica Conservancy known as the Sage Ranch and another large, minimally-developed parcel known as the Brandeis-Bardin Institute. The eastern-most perimeter of the facility is bordered by a few small "gentlemen farmer" ranches and two mobile home parks.

2.2 SITE HISTORY

Rocketdyne began testing rocket engines at the field lab site for space and military programs in the late 1940s. Rocket tests for such programs as Apollo, Redstone, Navaho and the Space Shuttle main engines have been conducted at the site. Today the site is used for testing expendable engines, such as the Delta and Atlas, various energy related programs associated with non-nuclear testing of components for advanced liquid metal reactor research and laser programs. Historically, Rocketdyne had several small nuclear reactors at the SSFL, of the research and development type in nature, whose operations provided design information. Presently, there are no nuclear operations at the SSFL.

2.3 SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS AND INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS

Ground Water

In the late 1940s to mid-1950s, Rocketdyne constructed eighteen deep water supply wells which ranged from 203 feet to 2,304 feet in depth. These initial wells were constructed to satisfy the industrial water demands at the site.

In 1983, Rocketdyne initiated a hydrogeological study of the Alfa/Bravo area (located in Area II) and a ground water sampling program for the existing water supply wells. In 1984, Rocketdyne discovered the water supply wells were chemically contaminated with TCE and notified the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LA RWQCB) of these findings. The LA RWQCB requested Rocketdyne to investigate the ground

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water contamination and to submit a Hydrogeological Assessment Report for the surface impoundments which were used for spill containment, and hazardous waste storage and treatment.

The site's ground water monitoring system currently includes approximately 173 wells and springs of which approximately 154 are on-site wells. Rocketdyne constructed these monitoring wells to investigate the shallow and deeper ground water systems and to characterize and define the extent of ground water contamination occurring beneath the site.

The site's ground water remediation system has been in place since 1987 and currently treats just under one million gallons of water per day. The cleansed ground water is then reused in site operations.

Rocketdyne continues to monitor off-site wells for chemical contamination and to determine the extent of contamination migration. The analytical data (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991) for off-site ground water monitoring wells indicate that low level contamination of volatile organic constituents has migrated off-site on the north side of SSFL and this contamination has been found in three shallow wells. These values are very low. Tritium was also detected in one off-site well at levels well below drinking water limits.

Soil

In 1985, Rocketdyne ceased using the ten on-site surface impoundments and submitted ten Resource Conservation Recovery Act closure plans to the California Environmental Protection Agency. Copies of the closure plans were also submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX. During the surface impoundments closure operations, Rocketdyne excavated, removed and disposed of the contaminated soil at an off-site disposal facility. Underground storage tanks have also been removed throughout the facility and replaced with above ground storage tanks. Contaminated soil beneath underground storage tanks has also been excavated, removed and disposed of at off-site disposal facilities. Additional soil sampling may still be needed to determine the extent of soil chemical contamination at various former solid waste management units at the facility.

In Area IV, Rocketdyne found the subsurface soils of the old Sodium Disposal Facility surface impoundments were contaminated with hazardous materials and low level radioactive contamination in a few isolated areas.

Air

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District has issued Permits to Operate, and Authorities to Construct for all areas. These permits include, but are not limited to, heaters, generators, turbines, degreasers and air stripping tower treatment systems.

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The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District permits regulate air emissions from the sources mentioned above. Radionuclide emissions are not regulated through this agency but through Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The Radioactive Materials Disposal Facility, Building 20 Hot Cell, and Building 59 SNAP Facility are the main potential sources of radionuclide emissions to the air.

Surface Water and Surface Water Runoff

The SSFL site lies across the ridge which separates the Santa Clara River Basin from the Los Angeles River Basin. Therefore, two natural surface water drainage patterns are associated with the site. The primary pattern, accounting for more the 90% of the total surface water runoff from SSFL, flows south to Bell Canyon Creek which joins the Los Angeles River channel just west of Canoga Park. The combined streams flow east into the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin, then south through Los Angeles, eventually reaching the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach.

The secondary runoff pattern conveys less than 10% of the total site's runoff toward the north and northeast via Meier and Runkle Canyons toward the Arroyo Simi and/or Conejo Creek. Both of these surface water streams merge near Camarillo to form Calleguas Creek, which then flows southwest to the Pacific Ocean at Point Mugu. Normally, there is no flow from the site toward the north, but during storm conditions runoff leaves the site through a system of normally dry creek beds.

Surface water patterns on-site show predominantly southerly flow through open channels and culverts to a series of catch ponds and retention basins. The majority of these features are man-made and serve to provide much needed water for use as flame bucket coolant for all rocket engine testing facilities in Areas I, II and III. Area IV, where Department of Energy operations are centered, has surface water drainage ditches to convey runoff and cooling water to the collection system in Area II, where the runoff may be retained and reused as part of the reclaimed water system.

An integral part of the surface drainage system is the site-wide reclaimed water system, which recovers most of the site's industrial water, rainfall and treated sewage treatment plant effluents from all four areas.

2.4 CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

Ground Water

Ground water investigations currently under way include the implementation of the Site Characterization Plan (SCP), which was requested by DTSC after conducting a Comprehensive Ground Water Monitoring Evaluation (CME) in December 1990. The purpose of the site characterization effort is to further characterize the physical properties of the Chatsworth Formation (the dominant rock formation at the site), provide a site-wide range of ground water flow rates, and enhance the understanding of site-wide

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hydraulic communication of dominant fracture systems. The first task, completed in the fall of 1991, involved the collection of continuous cores of the Chatsworth Formation at three locations across the site. The cores and coreholes were then analyzed for a variety of geological information, such as permeability, porosity, texture, cementation, sedimentary structures, color, lithology, and depth and orientation of fracturing. The second task of this effort will be to develop a range of lateral ground water flow rates for the site through the use of tracer compounds. A tracer will be introduced into monitor wells in selected areas and water samples will be routinely collected and analyzed for the presence of the tracer at nearby extraction wells. The travel time of the tracer from the monitoring well to the extraction well will be used to estimate the rate of flow. The final task of the SCP will be to develop an understanding of which fractures in the Chatsworth Formation are in hydraulic communication. To evaluate this site-wide interconnection of fracture zones, a long-term water level recovery test will be conducted by shutting down all of the site's extraction wells for a month and recording water level rises in essentially all the Chatsworth Formation wells. However, these recovery tests cannot be conducted until additional monitoring wells are constructed. To that end, Rocketdyne is planning an Interim Well Installation activity, which will be designed to further define ground water quality and direction in periphery areas of the site and to evaluate vertical ground water quality and hydrogeologic condition in select areas of the facility.

When the Interim Well Installation and Site Characterization Plan are completed, Rocketdyne plans to initiate a Ground Water Quality Assessment Plan (QUAP). Activities proposed for the Quality Assessment Program will further characterize the nature and extent of ground water contamination and general hydrogeologic conditions at the facility. The QUAP will also provide enough information to designate a final monitoring scheme.

In addition, Rocketdyne continues to monitor the water quality of the 173 wells and springs according to the quarterly schedule that is submitted to DTSC.

Soil

Rocketdyne's closure activities at ten surface impoundments from 1985-1989 resulted in only one receiving DTSC-approved clean closure. Although the remaining nine impoundments are physically closed with final covers in place, the closure process has not been completed since DTSC has not administratively acknowledged closure without verification soil sampling. In an effort to complete closure, Rocketdyne developed a soil sampling plan and companion health-based risk assessment work plan for the closed impoundments. This activity will involve the collection of soil samples at the locations of nine former surface impoundments and channel systems. Rocketdyne will take samples according to the approved sampling plan and

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perform a health risk assessment based on the data. If the contamination at any impoundment does not pose risk to public health and the environment, then DTSC and Rocketdyne will consider the closure complete.

Current investigations at the former Sodium Disposal Facility include non-invasive surveys (gamma and geophysical) to establish levels of radioactivity on the surface of the site and to establish the location of buried objects. A pilot study involving the excavation to bedrock of a region of the Lower Pond is being performed under the direction of the RWQCB. Once DTSC has approved the closure plan, all soil will be excavated from the Upper and Lower Ponds up to bedrock. Contaminated soil will be screened and placed into closed bins and analyzed prior to disposal. Areas surrounding the ponds will be characterized by soil borings and soil analysis. Those areas contaminated above determined cleanup levels will also be excavated. The concrete pit, pad and other structures will be demolished and if found to be contaminated will be treated as hazardous waste. Once the site is certified to be clean, the area will be backfilled, graded and revegetated.

Rocketdyne is also currently in the process of prioritizing remedial response activities at over 70 solid waste management units (SWMUs) across the site. SWMUs estimated to be the most contaminated will be investigated at a higher priority than those estimated to be less contaminated or not contaminated at all.

Air

With regard to air monitoring programs, Rocketdyne currently performs PM10 (airborne particulate matter less than 10 microns) and meteorological monitoring at SSFL. The parameters regularly monitored at Area I and IV include ambient PM10 concentration, wind speed and wind direction. In addition, relative humidity, temperature and rainfall are monitored daily in Area I. Rocketdyne also implemented an air toxics source testing program at the ALFA Test Stand. Numerous rocket engine test plumes have been sampled for air toxics (AB 2588 chemicals), volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile hydrocarbons, aldehyde, phenol and PM10 concentrations.

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3.1 COMMUNITY MAKEUP

To obtain information for this section, DTSC's Public Participation Specialist and Rocketdyne staff conducted 23 face-to-face interviews and two telephone contacts with individuals representing the affected communities. Information was provided by the following groups:

- Employee Unions (UAW and IBEW)
- Local elected officials
- Regulatory Agencies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board and Ventura County Environmental Health Department)
- Adjacent property owners and nearby businesses
- Nearby schools and the Los Angeles Board of Education
- Nearby residents and homeowner's associations

The interview subjects were asked to provide information about their knowledge of the operations at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), their understanding of environmental issues and their involvement with activities related to SSFL, their questions and concerns about cleanup activities at SSFL, their information needs, and their recommendations about techniques that would be effective in providing for public participation throughout the permitting and cleanup processes at SSFL.

Also included in this assessment are concerns identified through prior community outreach activities and interviews conducted by DHS (now DTSC) with other citizens in 1990.

Information gathered from these interviews is presented below, collectively organized according to which of the groups listed above provided the information.

3.2 EMPLOYEE UNIONS

Representatives from UAW-Local 1519 and IBEW-Local 2295 are aware of the ongoing permit and cleanup activities at SSFL. Neither expressed concerns, indicating that they are confident that Rocketdyne is adequately addressing these issues and taking the necessary precautions to ensure the future health and safety of the workers and the neighboring communities, as well as protection of the environment. Although the UAW representative felt that communication has improved in the last three years and that Rocketdyne is doing a good job of informing the employees about these issues, the IBEW interviewee indicated that the company could do a better job to get the facts out to offset the negative publicity being disseminated by the news media.

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3.3 LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Although their understanding about the type of operations taking place at the site differ, all interviewees are aware of the monitoring and cleanup activities underway.

The majority of the legislative offices interviewed have been involved with SSFL to varying degrees since the first media coverage surfaced in 1989. Activities range from applying influence to expedite results, involvement in the Community Work Group process, working with concerned constituents, and regularly receiving environmental monitoring reports and other pertinent documents.

The primary concern raised by the legislators is the potential health risks facing their constituents as a result of former activities at the site, which includes the off-site migration of contaminated ground water. It was also mentioned that the process to accomplish the cleanup is of concern. It is felt that this activity must be conducted in such a way as to ensure that the results are beyond reproach. One interviewee suggested that independent sources should do the studies and analyses, and that the site be totally cleaned up. Transportation of hazardous materials through the neighboring communities is also of concern.

In regard to current operations, the only concerns identified involve taking the necessary precautions to ensure the continuing safety and protection of the workers and the environment.

Interviewees feel that, although it appears to be getting better, the authorities have been doing a poor job of overseeing the activities at SSFL; there is still some lack of coordination between agencies and there exists the perception that the DOE has a conflict of interest and subsequently is doing a very poor job.

It was widely agreed that in the past communication between Rockwell and the community was very poor. However, since 1989, communication is better--due to the high level of media interest the site has received, although there is still room for improvement.

The consensus among the members of this group is their need for advance notification of any "hot" or unusual finding prior to its appearance in the media so that they may be prepared to answer inquiries from their constituents.

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3.4 REGULATORY AGENCIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is aware of the permit and closure activities ongoing and would be concerned only that correct procedures are being followed and that all EPA, DOE and NRC concerns are addressed. This agency has participated in on-site inspections, and raised no concerns about ongoing operations.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board is concerned with the known condition of the ground water and its potential off-site migration and the potential surface water run-off which may carry contaminants to receiving waters. This agency has expressed no concerns relative to ongoing operations.

Although not active participants in the permit and cleanup process, the Ventura County Environmental Health Department has agreed that the Cal EPA should remain the lead for site cleanup. Its concern, however, would be to have enough information to adequately respond to the concerns raised by the public. This agency would be concerned that Rocketdyne continue to be in compliance with all state hazardous waste laws throughout its continuing operations.

It is agreed by the above represented agencies that the concerned groups are sufficiently informed through the SSFL Community Work Group process, although the community which does not participate in these meetings would be much less informed about activities at SSFL. Even the participating audience lacks information about Rocketdyne's past and present operations.

Each of the agencies represented above indicated that agency oversight of SSFL operations is very effective.

3.5 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS AND NEARBY BUSINESSES

A concern unique to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy involves the lead on its property which boarders SSFL Area I which resulted from the Rocketdyne Gun Club activity. The Conservancy has also addressed its concern over the need to maintain a wildlife corridor, indicating that operations at SSFL are more conducive to this end than a residential development would be.

The Brandeis-Bardin Institute is an educational institution with year-round programs (religious and cultural in nature) for people of all ages, such as camps and retreats. This organization's concerns center around the health and safety risks facing the people at Brandeis-Bardin. Also, there is worry that poor record-keeping of the past and lack of a complete site characterization does not provide for an accurate picture of what might have caused the contamination or some idea of the extent of the problem. The Institute wants assurances that the cleanup activities will not compound the problems that already exist, and that current and future operations be conducted in a safe manner.

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Although there is a feeling that communication to the public about current operations is good, there is still concern that the public is not adequately informed about past activities.

3.6 NEARBY SCHOOLS AND THE LOS ANGELES BOARD OF EDUCATION

Simi Valley High School, as an educational institution, has had a long and productive relationship with Rocketdyne. Its administration has not heard concerns about Rocketdyne's activities voiced by students, parents or community members. Most of the information about SSFL is provided via the media, and that information is slanted and therefore not adequate. More facts are needed to reach the public. School representatives also indicated that a future concern would be Rocketdyne's continued use of the site as an asset to the community.

The Los Angeles Board of Education, represented by Board Member Julie Korenstein, is primarily concerned with how the SSFL activities of the past, present and future affect the health of the neighboring communities. Nuclear and chemical contamination continue to cause concern, and there exists a credibility issue with Rocketdyne doing the clean up. Although the media has covered this issue to a great extent, the information about what's being done to rectify the problems is not being communicated adequately.

3.7 NEARBY RESIDENTS AND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS

All of the residents interviewed indicated an awareness of the Rocketdyne plans for cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, although not all interviewees were aware that these activities had begun. Most of the residents indicated that their concerns primarily involve the activities of the past and how those activities threaten the health and safety of the neighboring communities. They are concerned that the cleanup process be accomplished safely and not cause further environmental or health concerns, and that proper precautions be taken to preclude the incidents of the past. Transportation of hazardous material through the neighborhoods was also mentioned by several interviewees as an issue to be addressed.

Most of the residents are informed about Rocketdyne through the media stories they have read. However, that information is often incomplete, such as when the stories first surfaced in 1989 and shocked and worried residents, because the readers do not have enough information to confirm or invalidate what they read. There is a general feeling among the residents that the regulators cannot be trusted, and common agreement that lack of coordination on the part of the various agencies and potential conflict of interest at the DOE makes this oversight by local, state and federal authorities seemingly ineffective.

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Bell Canyon residents are particularly concerned about the water discharged from the site through Bell Creek, although they did indicate their concern does not center around the quality of the water (although it is a lesser concern) since it was noted that it is regularly analyzed, but rather about the quantity that is discharged and might potentially endanger small children in or around the creek at the time of a discharge event. One resident also mentioned a concern about the affect the site will have on this community's property values.

Homeowners from Susana Knolls also indicated that they felt betrayed living so close to the site and yet having been lied to about operations in the past. They would like to believe that there is open communication about activities of the past and present, but Rocketdyne needs to build a relationship based on trust. They are not confident that there is an accurate understanding of what potential contamination may have existed in the past and what potential contamination may still exist. They would also like to see the cleanup proceed more quickly, and are concerned about the bureaucracy slowing it down.

3.8 RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

All interviewees agreed that the most important factor in communicating with the public is honesty. It was widely agreed upon that in the past the community was not made aware of the potential hazards threatening them, and open communication, being forthcoming and openly presenting all the facts and their potential consequences, will alleviate any fear of the unknown, and provide the community members with the information they need to make educated decisions about issues related to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Most of those interviewed believe that fact sheets could be used to disseminate information about the activities at the site, emphasizing that they be short, concise and written in very simple language. Although the parties interviewed indicated their need for varying degrees of information, the most useful communique would provide simplified details about the cleanup (and the effects off-site) as well as to briefly discuss current operations (what the facility is and does, where, why), and any potential consequence of those activities (including the use of hazardous materials). Fact sheets could be distributed periodically as information warrants or as milestones are achieved.

To be credible, this material should discuss both the positive and negative findings and impacts of the activities at the site. Also, several interviewees suggested that the material be prepared by an organization other than Rockwell to ensure its objectivity. The information should be designed to answer the commonly asked questions: "Is my health at risk?" or "Is my property value declining?"

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According to those interviewed, large public meetings would be ineffectual since it is very difficult to get people to attend meetings unless they are really excited about the topic. Accordingly, the same group of concerned individuals would likely be the participants at all such gatherings. It is therefore recommended that smaller meetings of concerned groups be held to generate questions and discussions. There is consensus that the meetings should be held in the evenings, and their frequency determined by the level of interest in the site.

Because of the unique nature of the site, located in southeastern Ventura County at the western border of the San Fernando Valley, there are a number of communities that are interested in this facility. Accordingly, meetings should be held in the community which is targeted for the assembly. Most interviewees recommended school auditoriums in each of the communities (West Hills, Canoga Park, Chatsworth and/or Simi Valley); other suggestions included Simi Valley Library, Simi Valley City Council Chambers, Larwin Center, Chatsworth Park Community Center and the Community Center at Bell Canyon. It was suggested and agreed upon that an on-site (SSFL) meeting might provide the best opportunity for employee participation (the employees reside in communities as far as 60 miles from the site, often participating in car/vanpool programs).

Most of the interviewees indicated that they had read media accounts of activities at the site through one of three major news publications: the Daily News, the Los Angeles Times, or the Simi Enterprise. Although some feel this medium is a good way to reach the public, others felt that the information was not always accurate or complete, which may create additional concerns.

Television was also mentioned by several individuals as a good way to reach the public, while others regard it as a poor form of communication.

3.9 SUMMARY

All of the interview subjects were aware of Rocketdyne's Santa Susana Field Laboratory, although this awareness among the general community did not grow until the newspaper stories first surfaced in 1989. For the period between May 1989 and initiation of these community interviews, the level of community concern about SSFL has ranged from extremely high to moderate. The site has received a great deal of media attention and, thus, community interest. The majority of the subjects interviewed indicated a knowledge of the general type of activity in which SSFL is, or has been, involved, as well as a general awareness of the environmental issues associated with the site. However, it is evident through this interview process that there is some misconception about the types of materials currently used at this facility, as well as the types of operations currently underway.

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Although some individuals were unable to provide specific examples, all agreed that hazardous substances are currently used at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. It is generally assumed that Rocketdyne is attempting to reduce or eliminate use of such substances, using only those materials necessary to conduct operations. With the exception of the elimination of nuclear activity and the cleanup efforts underway, the subjects interviewed are not aware of the particular efforts or specific achievements in this area.

Concerns raised primarily involve how the operations of the past, and current environmental cleanup activities, may pose health risks to the neighboring communities. Everyone interviewed indicated a desire to be placed on a mailing list for site information, and several hundred requests for placement on the mailing list were received in response to the first fact sheet. This suggests that moderate interest may continue throughout the investigation and remedial process.

Interviewees felt that Rocketdyne's impact on its neighboring communities and the related environmental and potential health risks, rest with Rocketdyne's past operations.

It was widely agreed that Rockwell has been a major contributor to the space program and the local community. Many of the subjects interviewed were aware of the past nuclear operation that provided electricity to the city of Moorpark. As a major employer and supporter of the local community programs, Rockwell is recognized as a good corporate citizen.

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4.1 OBJECTIVES

The public participation program for the SSFL Facility is designed to fulfill the following objectives:

- To provide the community and other interested parties with accurate and timely information about studies and findings at the Facility

- To keep the community informed about possible health risks associated with exposure to hazardous materials found at the Facility

- To establish on-going, two-way communication between the public and the oversight agency (DTSC), and specifically to provide the public with opportunities to comment on activities at the Facility

- To educate the community about the state hazardous waste cleanup process and the different roles of the oversight agency, the responsible parties (Rocketdyne, DOE and NASA), and the public as these relate to the Facility

- To monitor public concern and information needs so that public participation techniques can be modified as necessary

These objectives are based on concerns and issues raised during community interviews conducted during the preparation of this Plan. Activities to meet these objectives are discussed in detail below. The activities will be carried out by DTSC and Rocketdyne with DTSC oversight. Rocketdyne's public participation coordinator Lori Circle, Manager of Environmental Communications and Public Affairs, will carry out those activities noted as Rocketdyne's responsibility. DTSC's public participation specialist will carry out activities assigned to DTSC, and will provide oversight on Rocketdyne activities. DTSC may issue written fact sheets, bulletins, press releases, public service announcements and/or video tape clips for use at meetings or release to the media.

4.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

DTSC and Rocketdyne will conduct the public participation activities described below to keep the community informed of investigations and cleanup activities at all the solid waste management units (SWMUs). There will be separate RCRA Interim Measures as warranted, a site-wide RCRA Facility Investigation and Corrective Measure Studies for the SWMUs and a final Corrective Measures Implementation Plan. The public participation activities below will be conducted during both sets of investigations.

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Whenever possible, and as appropriate, Rocketdyne will communicate to the public information about ongoing operations at SSFL. This information will not detract from the details concerning site remediation activities, but instead augment that information by providing a more complete understanding of the entire scope of work taking place at the SSFL. This effort will demonstrate Rocketdyne's position to be forthcoming and open about its current operations to better educate the public and alleviate the sense of distrust which was identified as an issue during the community assessment.

To fulfill the objectives discussed, DTSC or Rocketdyne under DTSC oversight will:

1. PREPARE A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN. This Public Participation Plan has been developed to outline the methods DTSC and Rocketdyne will use to provide the community with adequate and timely information on activity at the site and opportunities to provide comments during the investigation and cleanup process. Interviews have been conducted in person and by telephone with residents near the Facility, local elected officials and agency staff to learn what types of information the public would like to have about the site, and the most effective methods of communicating that information and providing forums for public input to the process. Rocketdyne will revise the Plan as directed by DTSC after a final Corrective Measures Implementation Plan is issued, prior to initiation of remedial design and remedial action.

2. DEVELOP A MAILING LIST. Rocketdyne will develop and continue to update a mailing list of persons and organizations interested in receiving information about site activities. The mailing list will include contiguous property owners, local elected officials, agency staff, environmental groups, neighborhood associations, and others who have indicated an interest in receiving information. DTSC will use the mailing list to provide the community with fact sheets, meeting notices and other pertinent documents related to site activities.

3. ESTABLISH INFORMATION REPOSITORIES. To provide interested persons with background and technical information about the SWMUs, Rocketdyne established two information repositories at the beginning of the Remedial Investigation process. Addresses of the information repositories are provided in Appendix A. The repositories contain all documents related to the remedial investigations and activities at the SSFL. The information repositories will be updated as new materials become available.

In addition to the information repositories, DTSC files are available for public review during regular business hours by contacting the DTSC Project Manager for the site (see Appendix A for the address).

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4. PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE FACT SHEETS. At technical milestones in the site investigation and cleanup process, DTSC will distribute fact sheets that explain the activities at the site and their results. As recommended by the community members interviewed for this Plan, the fact sheets will present information in simple, concise language, and will focus on current site activities. All fact sheets will be distributed to the mailing list. Should DTSC determine that a particular fact sheet requires wider distribution, it may also be distributed to local resident associations, with employer newsletters, through local schools and/or be posted at other locations.

Copies of final fact sheets will be distributed in advance to local legislators, as they anticipate that fact sheets may generate questions from the public. Advance copies will be mailed first class two days before a general distribution or faxed directly.

Fact sheets will be produced at the following stages: before the start of the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), when the draft Corrective Measures Implementation Plan is developed and before the remedial action begins. DTSC will provide additional fact sheets as needed during the RFI (to explain any important findings), at any interim remedial actions (to explain the need for and method of the action), and during any other phase of the investigation and cleanup when important new information becomes available. Rocketdyne will prepare fact sheets at the direction of DTSC, and will be responsible for production and distribution. All fact sheets will require DTSC approval prior to distribution.

5. BRIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCY STAFF. DTSC will contact the local legislators, by memorandum or by telephone, to inform elected officials of progress in the investigation. Prior to distribution of each fact sheet, DTSC will brief local officials and agency staff on request to prepare them for questions they may receive from the community. Appendix C provides a list of local elected officials and agency staff to be contacted about briefings.

6. MAKE PRESENTATIONS ON SITE ACTIVITIES. As interviewees suggested, DTSC and Rocketdyne will offer to make presentations at scheduled meetings of homeowner's associations and other interest groups. This activity will take place during the investigation process, during the comment periods for the Draft Corrective Measures Implementation Plan, and as requested at other stages of this process. These presentations are aimed at reaching smaller groups of concerned residents, and will augment the large public meeting which was agreed to be an ineffective method of communication.

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7. HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS. DTSC will hold a public meeting to explain and kick off the investigation activities at the site. DTSC may hold other public meetings as needed. If community interest in site activities warrants it, DTSC may hold public meetings in addition to, or in place of, the presentations described above. Where appropriate, DTSC and Rocketdyne will conduct smaller meetings, targeted to specific concerned community groups. DTSC will vary meeting places between the several neighborhoods near the site to involve the various concerned community members. Whenever possible, these meetings will be conducted during the evening. As required by DTSC, Rocketdyne will assist in the preparation for these meetings.

8. PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICES. Rocketdyne will place a public notice as a display ad in community newspapers in the San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley each time a public meeting regarding activities at SSFL is scheduled. Notices will be published no less than two weeks prior to meetings to provide adequate time for community members to make plans to attend.

A notice will be published to announce the availability of the draft Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) Plan for public review, the dates of the 30-day comment period, and announce the time and location of a public meeting to be held for the discussion of the draft CMI Plan. Rocketdyne will post copies of the notice on site, at locations in each of the concerned communities near the site, and at the local repositories.

9. PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. As required by law, DTSC will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft CMI Plan for a period of no less than thirty days. During this comment period, DTSC will hold a public meeting with the assistance of Rocketdyne. The public may submit comments at the meeting as well as throughout the 30-day comment period.

10. RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS. DTSC will prepare a Response to Public Comments to address all questions and concerns received during the 30-day comment period on the draft CMI Plan. DTSC may revise the draft CMI Plan in response to community concerns, or may respond to comments with an explanation of why it has decided not to revise the CMI Plan.

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4.3 SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

Specific public participation activities are listed below as they correspond to technical milestones in the remedial process. A schedule for public participation activities is provided in Figure 4-1.

o Prior to commencement of the RCRA Facility Investigation	- Interview community members, officials, and agency staff for input to Public Participation Plan - Develop a Public Participation Plan - Develop mailing list, including contiguous property owners - Brief legislators and agency staff - Mail out fact sheet explaining investigations at the SSFL facility
o Early stages of the RCRA Facility Investigation	- Establish information repositories
o During each Interim Measure	- Prepare fact sheets about interim findings, as needed - Brief legislators and agency staff, as needed - Update information repositories, as needed - Monitor level of community concern
o Availability of RCRA Facility Investigation Report	- Place a copy of the RFI Report in each information repository - Prepare a fact sheet to summarize RFI Report and announce its availability, mail advance copies to legislators and agency staff - Brief legislators and agency staff - Make presentations to interested community groups - Monitor level of community concern

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o Availability of Corrective Measures Study and Corrective Measures Implementation Plan	- Place copies of the Corrective Measures Study (CMS) in each information repository - Prepare a fact sheet that explains actions in CMI Plan and announces its availability, mail advance copies to legislators and agency staff - Brief legislators and agency staff - Publish and post notices of CMI Plan availability, beginning of public comment period and upcoming public meeting - Provide public with a 30-day comment period - Conduct one or more public meetings during the comment period - Monitor level of community concern
o Final selection of remedy	- Prepare a Response to Public Comments consisting of public comments and DTSC responses to comments - Place a copy of the final CMI Plan and Response to Public Comments in each of the information repositories - Prepare a fact sheet describing the selected remedial action, mail advance copies to legislators and agency staff - Brief local legislators and agency staff - Make presentations to interested community groups - Monitor level of community concern
o Prior to initiation of Corrective Measures Implementation	- Update the Public Participation Plan to reflect any changes in the needs and concerns of the community, as needed

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Figure III

FIGURE III. SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES	TECHNICAL MILESTONES						
	Planning for RFI and Interim Measures	RFI Sampling and Analysis	RFI Report Complete	CMS Complete	Draft CMI Plan	Final CMI Plan	Interim Measures
1. Interview officials, agency representatives, community members	X						
2. Public Participation Plan		X					
3. Information Repositories	--------	-----X-----	- (reports and fact	sheets deposited	as available) - - - -	----------	----------
4. Contact/Mailing Lists	X-------	----- (update as	needed) --------	----------	----------	----------	----------
5. Ongoing contact with local officials; briefings at points indicated	X-------	-- (as needed)--	------X------	------X------	------X------	------X------	----------
6. Fact Sheets	X	-- (as needed)--	X	X	X	X	X
7. Presentations to community groups	----------	-- (as requested) -	----------	----------	----------	----------	
8. Public comment period (30-day minimum)					X		
9. Public Meeting	X				X		
10. Response to public comments						X	
11. Revised Public Participation Plan	----------	----------	----------	- (as necessary) -	----------	----------	----------

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DTSC/CAL EPA CONTACTS

Questions and comments about the ongoing investigations and remedial actions at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, should be directed to those listed below.

Mr. Randy Sturgeon
Public Participation Specialist
(818) 567-3000

Ms. Sayareh Amirebrahimi
Project Manager
(818) 567-3000

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances
Suite 300
1405 North San Fernando Boulevard
Burbank, California 91504

ROCKETDYNE CONTACT

Ms. Lori Circle
Manager, Environmental Communications and Public Affairs
(818) 710-4132

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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Simi Valley Library
2969 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, California 93063
(805) 526-1735

University of California, Northridge
~~Urban Archives Center~~ Oviatt Library
~~Mail Code URAC, South Library, Room 205~~
Northridge, California 91330
(818) ~~885-2487~~
(818) 677-2285

18111 Nordhoff St

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LOCATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Large Meeting Locations

Chatsworth Recreation Center
Chatworth Park Community Center
22360 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA
(chairs for 200; capacity for 500)

Chatsworth High School
10027 Lurline Avenue
Chatsworth, CA

Simi Valley High School
5400 Cochran Street
Simi Valley, CA

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Sycamore Drive Community Center
1692 Sycamore Drive
Simi Valley, CA
(capacity 300)

Smaller Meeting Locations

Pomello Drive Elementary School
7633 March Avenue
West Hills, CA

Simi Valley Library
Community Room
2969 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA

Specific Community Group Meetings

Bell Canyon Association
Community Center
30 Hacamore Street
Bell Canyon, CA

Santa Susana Park
Community House
6503 Katherine Street
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Santa Susana Field Lab
(on-site meeting for employees)

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SUGGESTED PUBLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC NOTICES

Canoga Park Valley View
San Fernando Valley Sun
Northridge Chatsworth Valley View
1300 Celis Street
San Fernando, California 91340
(818) 365-3111

The Enterprise
Steve Silkin
888 Easy Street
Simi Valley, California 93065
(805) 526-6211
FAX (805) 526-0479
FAX (805) 527-7009

Rockwell News
Tina Smith AB57
6633 Canoga Avenue
Canoga Park, California 91303
(818) 710-3298

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Howard Kaplan
1101 Pepper Tree Lane
Simi Valley, California 93064
(818) 348-7201 or (805) 526-1131

Simi Valley High School
Dennis Rast, Assistant Principal
5400 Cochran Street
Simi Valley, California 93063
(805) 526-0330

Julie Korenstein
Member, Board of Education
L A Unified School District
450 North Grand Avenue #A201
Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 625-6388

Bell Canyon Association
Sarah Berman, President
30 Hackamore #12
Canoga Park, California 91307
(818) 346-9879

Susana Knolls Homeowners Inc.
Barbara Johnson
1020 Black Canyon Road
Susana Knolls, California 93063
(805) 527-8910

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Rorie Skei
3750 Solstice Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
(213) 456-7807

Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Ross
101 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, California 91754
(213) 266-7550

U S Environmental Protection Agency
Karen Schwinn
75 Hawthorne Street H-4
San Francisco, California 94103
(415) 744-1730

Ventura County Environmental Health Department
Greg Smith
800 South Victoria Street
Ventura, California 93009
(805) 654-2823

United Auto Workers - Local 1519

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Local 2295

In an effort to maintain the privacy of the eight individuals from the community that were interviewed, that list will be kept on file at both the Cal EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control and at Rocketdyne.

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MAILING LIST

In an effort to maintain the privacy of the individuals who have asked to be included on the Public Participation Plan mailing list, that list will be kept on file at both the Cal EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control and at Rocketdyne. The following list includes only the public agencies/officials that receive relevant materials.

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Citizens for a Better Environmental
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San Francisco, California 94107

Toxics Assessment Group
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League of Women Voters
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Greenpeace
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San Francisco, California 94107

Clean Water Action
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San Francisco, California 94102

Environmental Health Coalition
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San Diego, California 92101

CA Council for Environmental & Economic Balance
Ms. Lisa Bicker
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San Francisco, California 94105

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